



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

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# News Release

## **ICE announces two criminal cases against companies employing illegal aliens *Company owners in Buffalo, N.Y., and Wichita, Kan., face federal charges for immigration violations***

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement today announced two criminal cases against corporate officers accused of crimes involving the unlawful employment of illegal aliens. The cases, one in Buffalo, N.Y., and the other in Wichita, Kan., are the most recent examples of an aggressive new strategy aimed at targeting corporations that profit by employing illegal workers.

"These two cases should put businesses on notice that ICE will criminally charge those employers who knowingly transport and employ illegal aliens as part of their business model," said Julie L. Myers, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "We will use all of our authorities to shut down businesses that exploit and harbor an illegal workforce. The United States Attorneys have been critical partners in our efforts to enforce our worksite laws."

Buffalo, N.Y.

Today in Buffalo two corporate officers of Skyworks Activities Incorporated, a cleaning company, had their initial appearance in U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. The company officers have been charged with transporting illegal aliens for profit. The criminal complaint alleges that 32-year-old America Miranda and her 38-year-old brother, Rafael Miranda, knowingly transported illegal aliens to the Buffalo area to work as cleaners at America's Fair, now running at the Erie County Fairgrounds.

According to the criminal complaint both of the company officers admitted that they knew a number of their employees were illegal aliens. Rafael Miranda also admitted that he transported a number of the aliens from Atlanta, GA to America's Fair. The complaint also alleges that America Miranda told agents during the investigation that she arranged the transportation of all 41 illegal aliens to the fair so they could work for the company. Both individuals were ordered held without bond.

Skyworks is a sub-contractor hired to provide cleaning services at the fair. The company is based in Norcross, GA. The case developed late Wednesday when a tip from the public led Buffalo special agents to arrest 41 illegal aliens working for Skyworks. The resulting investigation led to the criminal charges filed today in federal court. Terrance P. Flynn, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York is prosecuting the case.

Wichita, Kan.

A Wichita business, its owner and two managers were criminally indicted Wednesday in U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas on 28 counts involving the hiring and employment of illegal aliens.

Bob Eisel Powder Coatings, Inc., company owner and president Bob Eisel, general manager Kenric "Butch" Steinert and foreman Troy Hook were indicted for allegedly making false statements to the government (eight counts); misusing Social Security numbers (eight counts); accepting documents they knew were false as evidence that employees were allowed to stay or work in the U.S. (eight counts); committing aggravated identity theft (three counts); and harboring illegal aliens (one count).

According to the indictment, the company routinely hired illegal aliens while knowing or suspecting the documents they had provided were false. In addition, the company received letters from the Social Security Administration indicating employees were using numbers that didn't match their names, were not assigned, or were being used by more than one person. In response to the letters, the company, through Eisel, Steinert and Hook, told the affected employees that they would have to get different Social Security numbers in order to keep working.

Furthermore, according to the indictment, company managers took cash from an office safe and help illegal alien employees purchase new false documents. In this manner, the company assisted in the purchase of dozens of sets of false identification documents, most consisting of a Social Security card and a resident alien card, or "green card." The company would then terminate employment of the illegal alien and immediately re-hire the same person under the new false identity.

The company, its owner and the two managers were also indicted on eight counts of making false statements to the government when they certified on the Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, that the documents presented by the employees appeared to be genuine, that they related to the employees, and that the employees were eligible to work in the U.S.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE is significantly enhancing its worksite enforcement efforts as part of its interior enforcement strategy. ICE is bringing criminal prosecutions and using asset forfeiture as tools against illegal employment schemes far more than the former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), which tended to rely on administrative fines as a sanction against such activity. This strategy will create the kind of deterrence that was previously absent in worksite enforcement efforts.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*